

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces the claims presently in the application:

1. (currently amended) A dispense head comprising a plurality of inlets for connection to separate beverage supply lines, each inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a common dispense nozzle, wherein each inlet opens to an inlet section of the dispense nozzle via a respective dispense valve and the inlet sections merge into a common outlet section, and wherein a lower flow is provided at one or both of the start of the dispense and the end of the dispense by selectively opening or closing the dispense valves at different times during the dispense.

2-5. (cancelled).

6. (currently amended) A dispense head according to claim [[2]] 1 wherein the dispense valves are on/off solenoid valves.

7. (currently amended) A dispense head according to claim [[2]] 1 wherein the dispense valves are operable via a control unit in response to user actuation of a dispense.

8-9. (cancelled).

10. (withdrawn) A dispense head according to claim 9 wherein the airway comprises an unrestricted passageway open to atmosphere and air is prevented from being drawn into the nozzle during dispense by a small proportion of the dispensed beverage flowing out through the airway and re-combining with the main beverage stream emerging from the nozzle.

11. (withdrawn) A dispense head according to claim 10 wherein, when the dispense valve is closed at the end of the dispense, the flow of the beverage creates a vacuum in the dispense nozzle downstream of the dispense valve that causes air to be drawn into the nozzle through the airway allowing the nozzle to drain fully.

12. (currently amended) A dispense head according to claim [[9]] 21 wherein the airway comprises a passageway controlled by a drain valve that is closed to prevent air being drawn into the nozzle during beverage dispense.

13. (original) A dispense head according to claim 12 wherein, when the dispense valve is closed at the end of the dispense, the drain valve is opened allowing air to be drawn into the nozzle by the vacuum created by the flow of the beverage and allowing the nozzle to drain fully.

14-15. (cancelled).

16. (currently amended) A dispense head comprising an inlet for connection to a beverage supply line, the inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a dispense nozzle having an outlet, and means for draining the dispense nozzle downstream of the dispense valve through the dispense nozzle outlet when the dispense valve is closed.

17. (original) A dispense head according to claim 16 wherein the drain means comprises an inlet for admitting air to drain the dispense nozzle on completion of a dispense.

18. (withdrawn) A dispense head according to claim 17 wherein the airway comprises an unrestricted passageway open to atmosphere and air is prevented from being drawn into the nozzle during beverage dispense by a small proportion of the dispensed beverage flowing out through the airway and re-combining with the main beverage stream emerging from the nozzle.

19. (cancelled).

20. (currently amended) A dispense head according to claim ~~19~~ 22 wherein a short time delay is provided on completion of a dispense before opening the drain valve.

21. (new) A dispense head comprising a plurality of inlets for connection to separate beverage supply lines, each inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a common dispense nozzle, wherein means is provided for draining the dispense nozzle downstream of the dispense valve when the dispense valve is closed, and wherein the drain means comprises an airway for admitting air to the dispense nozzle at the end of the dispense.

22. (new) A dispense head comprising an inlet for connection to a beverage supply line, the inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a dispense nozzle, and means for draining the dispense nozzle downstream of the dispense valve when the dispense valve is closed, wherein the drain means comprises an inlet for admitting air to drain the dispense nozzle on completion of a dispense, and wherein the

inlet for admitting air comprises a passageway controlled by a drain valve that is closed to prevent air being drawn into the nozzle during beverage dispense.

23. (new) A dispense head comprising a plurality of inlets for connection to separate beverage supply lines, each inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a common dispense nozzle, wherein each inlet opens to an inlet section of the dispense nozzle via a respective dispense valve and the inlet sections merge into a common outlet section, and wherein the outlet section has a cross-sectional area matching the combined cross-sectional areas of the inlet sections.

24. (new) A dispense head comprising a plurality of inlets for connection to separate beverage supply lines, each inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a common dispense nozzle, wherein each inlet opens to an inlet section of the dispense nozzle via a respective dispense valve and the inlet sections merge into a common outlet section, and wherein the inlet sections are inclined relative to the outlet section and converge to merge smoothly into the outlet section avoiding sudden changes in the direction of flow.

25. (new) A dispense head comprising a plurality of inlets for connection to separate beverage supply lines, each inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a common dispense nozzle, wherein means is provided for draining the dispense nozzle downstream of the dispense valve when the dispense valve is closed.

26. (new) A dispense nozzle for dispensing a beverage, the dispense nozzle comprising at least two inlet sections for connection to respective beverage supplies,

and an outlet section for dispensing beverage flowing through each inlet section under the control of a dispense valve, wherein the outlet section is sized to match the combined flow through the inlet sections.

27. (new) A dispense head comprising an inlet for connection to a beverage supply line, the inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a dispense nozzle, and means for draining the dispense nozzle downstream of the dispense valve when the dispense valve is closed, wherein the drain means comprises an inlet for admitting air to drain the dispense nozzle on completion of a dispense.